

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 2, 8, 9, 14-31.

Amend Claims 1, 3, and 4 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A slider for burnishing asperities and cleaning loose particles that adhere to magnetic recording media, the slider comprising:

a body having an air bearing surface including a leading edge, a trailing edge, an inner edge, and an outer edge, the inner and outer edges extending between the leading and trailing edges and defining a longitudinal axis, and a lateral axis perpendicular to the longitudinal axis that extends between the inner and outer edges;

a plurality of rails on the air bearing surface, each of the rails being oriented at an acute angle with respect to the longitudinal axis such that the rails are defined as diagonal relative thereto, the rails being adapted to push the loose particles away from a surface of the magnetic recording media; [[and]]

each of the rails having an inner portion that is closer to the inner edge and an outer portion that is closer to the outer edge, and the inner portions being closer to the leading edge than respective ones of the outer portions[.]; and

at least one leading edge pad that is independent of the rails and located adjacent to an outer area of the leading edge.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The slider of claim [[2]] 1, wherein said at least one leading edge pad is congruent with at least one of the inner portions of the rails.

4. (currently amended) The slider of claim [[2]] 1, wherein said at least one leading edge pad and at least one of the inner portions of the rails have a step taper to provide a pitch-producing lift force for the slider.

5. (original) The slider of claim 1, further comprising at least one trailing edge pad that is independent of the rails and located adjacent to the trailing edge.

6. (original) The slider of claim 5, wherein said at least one trailing edge pad comprises three trailing edge pads, with a first trailing edge pad being congruent with the outer portions of the rails, and two of the trailing edge pads being smaller in size than the first trailing edge pad.

7. (original) The slider of claim 1, further comprising at least one rail pad on each of the rails, the rail pads defining pockets, and the rail pads being adapted to retain loose particles in the pockets thereof and burnish asperities.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (original) The slider of claim 9, wherein the inner portion of the middle rail is a leading edge pad, the outer portion of the middle rail is a trailing edge pad, and three additional rail pads are symmetrically disposed between the leading and trailing edge pads of the middle rail, and wherein all of the pads are generally rectangular in shape with rounded edges.

11. (original) The slider of claim 1, wherein the inner portion of an inner rail extends from approximately a midpoint of the inner edge to approximately a midpoint of the trailing edge, and an inner portion of an outer rail extends from approximately a midpoint of the leading edge to approximately a midpoint of the outer edge.

12. (original) The slider of claim 11, wherein the inner and outer rails are equal in length, and each has a single rail pad that is symmetrically disposed between the respective inner and outer portions thereof.

13. (original) The slider of claim 12, wherein all of the inner portions, outer portions, and pads align to define longitudinal columns and lateral rows.

14.-31. (canceled)

Add the following new claims:

32. (new) A slider for burnishing asperities and cleaning loose particles that adhere to magnetic recording media, the slider comprising:

a body having an air bearing surface including a leading edge, a trailing edge, an inner edge, and an outer edge, the inner and outer edges extending between the leading and trailing edges and defining a longitudinal axis, and a lateral axis perpendicular to the longitudinal axis that extends between the inner and outer edges;

a plurality of rails on the air bearing surface, each of the rails being oriented at an acute angle with respect to the longitudinal axis such that the rails are defined as diagonal relative thereto, the rails being adapted to push the loose particles away from a surface of the magnetic recording media;

each of the rails having an inner portion that is closer to the inner edge and an outer portion that is closer to the outer edge, and the inner portions being closer to the leading edge than respective ones of the outer portions; and

at least one rail pad on each of the rails, the rail pads defining pockets, and the rail pads being adapted to retain loose particles in the pockets thereof and burnish asperities.

33. (new) The slider of claim 32, further comprising at least one leading edge pad that is independent of the rails and located adjacent to an outer area of the leading edge, and wherein said at least one leading edge pad is congruent with at least one of the inner portions of the rails, and said at least one leading edge pad and at least one of the inner portions of the rails have a step taper to provide a pitch-producing lift force for the slider.

34. (new) The slider of claim 32, further comprising at least one trailing edge pad that is independent of the rails and located adjacent to the trailing edge, and wherein said at least one trailing edge pad comprises three trailing edge pads, with a first trailing edge pad being congruent with the outer portions of the rails, and two of the trailing edge pads being smaller in size than the first trailing edge pad.

35. (new) The slider of claim 32, wherein one of the rails is a middle rail that extends from an inner area of the leading edge to an outer area of the trailing edge, and wherein the inner portion of the middle rail is a leading edge pad, the outer portion of the middle rail is a trailing edge pad, and three additional rail pads are symmetrically disposed between the leading and trailing edge pads of the middle rail, and wherein all of the pads are generally rectangular in shape with rounded edges.

36. (new) The slider of claim 32, wherein the inner portion of an inner rail extends from approximately a midpoint of the inner edge to approximately a midpoint of the trailing edge, and an inner portion of an outer rail extends from approximately a midpoint of the leading edge to approximately a midpoint of the outer edge; wherein

the inner and outer rails are equal in length, and each has a single rail pad that is symmetrically disposed between the respective inner and outer portions thereof; and wherein

all of the inner portions, outer portions, and pads align to define longitudinal columns and lateral rows.

37. (new) A slider for burnishing asperities and cleaning loose particles that adhere to magnetic recording media, the slider comprising:

a body having an air bearing surface including a leading edge, a trailing edge, an inner edge, and an outer edge, the inner and outer edges extending between the leading and trailing edges and defining a longitudinal axis, and a lateral axis perpendicular to the longitudinal axis that extends between the inner and outer edges;

a plurality of rails on the air bearing surface, each of the rails being oriented at an acute angle with respect to the longitudinal axis such that the rails are defined as diagonal relative thereto, the rails being adapted to push the loose particles away from a surface of the magnetic recording media;

each of the rails having an inner portion that is closer to the inner edge and an outer portion that is closer to the outer edge, and the inner portions being closer to the leading edge than respective ones of the outer portions; and

at least one trailing edge pad that is independent of the rails and located adjacent to the trailing edge.

38. (new) The slider of claim 37, further comprising at least one leading edge pad that is independent of the rails and located adjacent to an outer area of the leading edge, wherein said at least one leading edge pad is congruent with at least one of the inner portions of the rails, and wherein said at least one leading edge pad and at least one of the inner portions of the rails have a step taper to provide a pitch-producing lift force for the slider.

39. (new) The slider of claim 37, wherein said at least one trailing edge pad comprises three trailing edge pads, with a first trailing edge pad being congruent with the outer portions of the rails, and two of the trailing edge pads being smaller in size than the first trailing edge pad.

40. (new) The slider of claim 37, wherein one of the rails is a middle rail that extends from an inner area of the leading edge to an outer area of the trailing edge, and wherein the inner portion of the middle rail is a leading edge pad, the outer portion of the middle rail is a trailing edge pad, and three additional rail pads are symmetrically disposed between the leading and

trailing edge pads of the middle rail, and wherein all of the pads are generally rectangular in shape with rounded edges.

41. (new) The slider of claim 37, wherein the inner portion of an inner rail extends from approximately a midpoint of the inner edge to approximately a midpoint of the trailing edge, and an inner portion of an outer rail extends from approximately a midpoint of the leading edge to approximately a midpoint of the outer edge, wherein the inner and outer rails are equal in length, and each has a single rail pad that is symmetrically disposed between the respective inner and outer portions thereof, and wherein all of the inner portions, outer portions, and pads align to define longitudinal columns and lateral rows.